WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Expansion of runway at Mangalore airport

234. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion of runway of Bajpe airport at Mangalore has been taken up;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the work;

(c) by when it will be completed; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to operate international flights once the runway and expansion works are completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A new runway of 8050 feet length is under construction at Bajpe airport in Mangalore. Besides, expansion of existing apron to accomodate four aircraft at a time has also been undertaken. Work was awarded in April, 2004. The expected project completion date is December, 2005.

(d) Airlines take decision on starting international operations subject to commercial viability and availability of aircraft capacity.

Review of open sky policy

235. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the open sky policy, especially the provisions relating to bilateral landing rights being granted to various foreign airlines; and

(b) if so, the results thereof and the fresh guidelines proposed, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No open sky policy for operation of international air services has been adopted by the Government. However recently there has been liberalization in our air services arrangements with Sri Lanka and ASEAN-countries subject to